

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00907 151108Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSM-01 IO-06 L-01 MCT-01 ACDA-10 SSO-00
INRE-00 /056 W

-----151116Z 046426 /22-11

O 151020Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7297

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KUWAIT 0907

LIMDIS

TEL AVIV PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS

SUBJECT: KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON PLO IN CONTEXT OF
ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM

REF: 76 KUWAIT 3109

1. WHEN I INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD
AL-JABER THAT I WOULD BE GOING TO RIYADH TO ATTEND A MEETING
WITH THE SECRETARY AND ASKED WHETHER I MIGHT SEE HIM BEFORE-
HAND, HE SUGGESTED THAT HE COME TO MY RESIDENCE FOR TEA SO
THAT WE MIGHT HAVE A MORE RELAXED DISCUSSION. THIS MEETING
TOOK PLACE ON FEB. 14 AND LASTED FOR OVER AN HOUR. THE FIRST
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 00907 151108Z

SUBJECT WE DISCUSSED DEALT WITH THE GENERAL ARAB-ISRAELI
PROBLEM AND POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A
SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

2. SABAH AL-AHMAD BEGAN BY ASSERTING THAT THE PLO MUST
ATTEND SUCH A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE AT GENEVA OR ELSEWHERE.
WHEN I ASKED WHETHER HE MEANT THEY SHOULD BE REPRESENTED

SEPARATELY, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM ON THE ARAB SIDE AS WELL IN CONNECTION WITH PLO REPRESENTATION, NOTING THAT HAFEZ AL-ASSAD HAD SUGGESTED A JOINT ARAB DELEGATION WHILE THE EGYPTIANS WERE INSISTING ON SEPARATE PLO REPRESENTATION. KUWAIT WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER ARAB CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON THIS MATTER. HE COMMENTED, IN REFERENCE TO THE EGYPTIAN POSITON, THAT CLEARLY EGYPT WAS IN FAVOR OF SEPARATE REPRESENTATION BECAUSE IT WANTED TO PRESERVE FOR ITSELF FREEDOM OF MANEUVER AT SUCH A CONFERENCE.

3. AT THIS POINT SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD RETURNED TO A FAVORIT THEME OF HIS (REFTEL) THAT THE US SHOULD OPEN OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH THE PLO, WHEN I RECALLED HIS PREVIOUS COMMENTS ON THIS POINT AND EXPLAINED THAT THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE LACK OF PLO RECOGNITION OF THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 STILL PERTAINED, SABAH AL-AHMAD INSISTED THAT WE COULD NOT EXPECT TO GET ANYWHERE ON THESE QUESTIONS UNLESS THE US WAS WILLING TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PLO. HE FELT CONFIDENT THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS COULD LEAD TO THE RESULTS THAT WE WOULD DESIRE IN THE RESPECT MENTIONED ABOVE. THESE CONTACTS, HE SAID, COULD BE SET UP ANYWHERE IN THE ARAB WORLD. IF DESIRED, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ARRANGE FOR THEM TO TAKE PLACE IN KUWAIT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY ABOUT THE JORDANIAN ROLE IN THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, SABAH AL-AHMAD SAID THAT PALESTINIAN MINI-STATE COULD NOT EXPECT TO EXIST IN ISOLATION BETWEEN AN UNFRIENDLY ISRAEL ON ONE SIDE AND A SUSPICIOUS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 00907 151108Z

JORDAN ON THE OTHER. LINKS WOULD MOST CERTAINLY HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE PALESTINIANS AND JORDANIANS. HE FELT CERTAIN THAT THE PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK WOULD WANT THIS. MOREOVER, HE BELIEVED THAT IF A PALESTINIAN STATE WERE ESTABLISHED, IT WAS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE WEST BANKERS WOULD BE CONTENT TO HAVE ARAFAT AND COMPANY AS THEIR LEADERS OVER THE LONGER TERM.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS VIEWS REGARDING US CONTACTS WITH THE PLO TO THE SECRETARY, WHICH I SAID I WOULD DO. HOWEVER, I EXPLAINED TO HIM AGAIN THE DIFFICULTIES SUCH ACTION WOULD RAISE IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AS WELL AS US-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIPS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ABSENCE OF PLO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE AND THE UN RESOLUTIONS. SABAH AL-AHMAD SUGGESTED THERE WAS HISTORICAL PARALLEL BETWEEN OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND WITH CHINA AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT WE TAKE THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH THE PLO IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE

EAST.
MAESTRONE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PALESTINIANS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT00907
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770053-0508
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770241/aaaabkhw.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2042cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 3109
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3321706
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON PLO IN CONTEXT OF ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM
TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS, PLO, (SABAH, SABAH AL-AHMAD AL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2042cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009